प्रसंस्करण मशीनरी की खरीद आदि के लिए ऋण और इम्दाद के रूप में वित्तीय सहायता दी जाती है। तैयार की गई सापेक्ष योजना देश के सभी चाय उत्पादक क्षेत्रों पर लागू होगी।

Import of Edible Oil Under Commodity Exchange Programme

4505. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to get edible oil from other countries under commodity exchange programme;

(b) if so, which are the commodities identified for exports; and

(c) whether Government are allowing State Governments to import edible oil in rupee payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR (a) and (b) No sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, Government have allowed the State governments to import edible oil for which payment in rupees will be adjusted against export proceeds of specified commodities.

Visit of Trade Delegations

4506. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of trade delegation which have visited India from abroad and the trade delegations the country have sent abroad after the liberalisation of economy; and

(b) how many visits were successful from both sides and how much amount has been spent on our delegations visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) After the liberalisation of economy 19 delegations have visited India and 14 delegations have been sent abroad. The visits of these delegations have been successful in arriving at a fuller understanding of the concerns of each other. An approximate amount of Rs. 15.82 lakhs has been spent on our delegations going abroad.

Merger of E.P.Cs.

4507. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge different export promotion councils into a powerful Board;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the names and functions of different export promotion councils at present in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Names of different export promotion councils at present functioning in the country:

(i) Under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce:

1. Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.
2. Overseas Construction Council of India, Bombay.
3. Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Bombay.
4. Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.
5. Plastic and Linoleums Export Promotion Council, Bombay.
6. Council for Leather Exports, Madras.
7. Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Bombay.
8. Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
9. Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.
10. Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin.
12. Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.

(ii) Under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles:

1. Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Bombay.
2. Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Bombay.
3. Indian silk Export Promotion Council, Bombay.
4. Apparel Promotion Council, New Delhi.
5. Wool & Wollen Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
6. Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
7. Handloom Export Promotion Council, Madras.
8. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi.

Functions of the Export Promotion Councils:

(i) To project the image of India's products and services abroad to promote and monitor the observance of international standards and specifications by exporters;

(ii) To play the liaison, information and quasiregulatory roles;

(iii) To develop strong, preferably, computerised information bases with regard to the products and markets-the exporters should have the benefit of statistical data backed by qualitative analysis done by the EPC;

(iv) To update their capabilities to offer professional advice and services for effective international marketing and promotion;

(v) To acquire competence to offer basic advice in areas like technology upgradation, product development, innovation, etc. for exports as well as for upgrading the quality of management of member organisations;

(vi) To make available contemporary equipment like PCs, fax, telex etc. etc. for research studies, investigations and development activities;

(vii) To improve substantially facilities for promotional infrastructure such as show rooms for displays, design rooms, studios for members, seminar rooms libraries of literature, designes, samples etc.

(viii) To organise commercial publicity, advertising and promotional programmes in chosen thrust markets and thrust products with well defined objectives and time bound directions;

(ix) to organise meaningful sales-cum study tours and sales tours abroad by delegations;

(x) To build strong linkages with various export promotion agencies like Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, India Trade Promotion Organisation, State Trading Corporation, Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation etc. to take advantage of their strength for its product markets.

Super 301 Provision and Opium Trade

4508. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest position of US attitude to India in regard to Super 301 provision of the Intellectual Property Right Act;

(b) whether there is any pressure form other countries concerned with US Government to suspend opium trade with India;

(c) if so, what is the present position in this regard; and

(d) whether there is any change in the US attitude towards the opium trade with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM): (a) to (d) The investigations initiated by the United States on 26 May, 1991 under the Special 301 provision of its trade law relating to intellectual property were terminated on 26 February, 1992.

The United Sates follows a policy for import of raw opium in terms of which 80% of their requirement is reserved for two traditional supplier countries, viz. India and Turkey. Under the Foreign Assistance Act, the President of the United States has to certify to the US Congress each year that the country concerned has taken adequate steps to prevent diversion and illicit cultivation of opium. Recently there was a move by certain commercial lobbies in the United